

October 29, 2002

***THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 10/31/02.***

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-061

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

**Facility**

Construction Testing Lab  
Shreveport, Louisiana  
License No.: LA-6427-L01  
Louisiana Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On October 28, 2002, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

On October 21, 2002, the Department received written notification of the theft of the gauge from Construction Testing Lab, a Louisiana licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen from the back seat of a company vehicle while parked at 3008 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Metairie, Louisiana, between 8:00 p.m. on September 20, 2002, and 10:00 a.m. on September 21, 2002. The gauge was not secured to the truck and was stolen by breaking the lock on the side rear window of the truck. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3411-B (Serial No. 4524), containing a 0.296 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) source of cesium-137 and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium. The licensee promptly notified the local police and is offering a reward for the return of the gauge.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on October 28, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. (CST). Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 8:30 a.m. (CST) on October 29, 2002.

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